

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed July 12, 2005. Claims 2, 13-14, 16, 19, 22, 26, and 29-31 have been amended. Claims 1, 7-12, 20, 21, and 25 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-6, 13-19, 22-24 and 26-31 stand currently objected as dependent from rejected claims, but allowable if written in independent form to include all limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Examiners recognition of patentable subject matter is appreciated. The claims have been amended such that they do not depend from rejected claims. Consequently, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 7-12 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,347,234 ("Schwartz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,781,984 ("Adam"). Claims 20-21 and 25 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,126,999 ("Munter") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,781,984 ("Adam"). Claims 1, 7-12, 20, 21, and 25 have been canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 2-6, 13-19, 22-24, and 26-31. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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